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BOOK REVIEWS

CHANGE OF LIFE IN MEN AND WOMEN. By Marie Carmichael Stopes, D.Sc. Lond., etc. London, Putnam, 1936. Pp. 282.

DR. MARIE STOPES is known to all the English-speaking world for her earlier works on sex life and on contraception.

In the present volume she writes for the older man and woman. As usual, a great deal of her work shows wide reading of parallel literature in various countries, and many of her observations are full of common-sense based on intelligent observation and profound knowledge over many years.

Her claim that the climacteric occurs in men as well as in women is, of course, accepted by all medical people. That it is not usually known to "the man in the street" is true. Dr. Stopes' advice to women at or near the menopause is excellent and is in close accord with all modern medical teaching and practice—that is, "Not to anticipate any trouble at all." The modern woman with few exceptions does not make the "heavy weather" over the menopause that was the rule perhaps twenty or twenty-five years ago.

The weakness of this book is in Dr. Stopes' indiscriminate praise or blame of many well-known foreign and English medical men, whom she names. The work of these surgeons and gynæcologists is known far and wide and their reputations are without blemish, and will stand despite her disagreement with their findings: but quotations from their works to uphold her views, or in many cases to belittle the views of these surgeons cannot be held to be in good taste.

Finally, in the opinion of this writer, the prescriptions for thyroid and other endocrine preparations giving dosage to patients for different symptoms associated with the climacteric is in the highest degree undesirable. On p. 233 Dr. Stopes does say, "*Small* quantities of thyroid should always be taken in any one dose, and the number of doses per day or per week must be decided by an expert." But she does not say "only under medical advice."

The usefulness of this book to many members of the lay public is definitely impaired by these defects of taste and by the general tone towards the medical profession, to whom, in the end, the patient must turn, but probably with unjustly diminished confidence. Under these circumstances she can scarcely expect the medical profession to recommend it to their patients, as they could whole-heartedly her earlier books.

A. R.

TEN MILLION AMERICANS HAVE IT. By Dr. S. W. Becker.

SYPHILIS—for laymen might provide an alternative title for "Ten Million Americans Have It," by Dr. S. W. Becker.

In this little book the author tries to draw aside the curtain which